

Approved

June 11, 2014
The Compass School Council
The Compass School
537 Old North Road
Kingston, RI

Minutes

Call to order: Elizabeth Allen, Council President, calls the meeting to order at 6:08 pm

Roll Call of Members Present: Elizabeth Allen (EA), Cyrus Beasley (CB), Dina Mandeville (DM), Heidi Vasquez (HV) Hilary Downes-Fortune (HD), Michelle Clifford (MC) Marisa Gallagher(MG), Charlie Weygand (CW) and Rick Rhodes (RR)

Absent:

Also present: Michael Obel-Omia (MOO), Interim Director & Kaleena Harrington (KH), Business Manager

Approval of minutes

HF motioned to approve May 14, 2014 minutes as amended

EA seconds

In favor: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

Committee Reports (Consent Agenda)

Development/Treasurers

- Bank statements for April and May look to be in order.
- Worked with the Business Manager to finalize 2014/2015 budget and partial review of year end 6/30/2014 actuals

Site Maintenance

- Site committee is getting budgets figured for permits/inspections.

Learning

Learning Committee met on Wednesday, May 24th.

In Attendance: Heidi Vasquez, Hilary Downes-Fortune, Harlyn Benetti, Nikki Gardner, Kari Militello, Joe Militello, Alex Bejan

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Summary:

- Generated an action plan for 2014-2015 school year to continue researching and gathering more information about expeditionary learning. Should middle school move towards an Expeditionary Learning model, stick with Project Based, or create our own blended version of the two?
- Listed current middle school afterschool and community programs
- Brainstormed possible additions to current program to improve middle school experience such as electives
- Discussed physical space needed for middle school
- Examined research on grade configurations for grades 5 and 6 (elementary vs. middle school model)
- Viewed proposed Alumni Survey
- Joe Militello volunteered to explore possible ways to incorporate electives into upper school schedule/configuration
- The committee is putting together of a summary of our meetings thus far to viewed by director, staff, development committee, and council to get feedback about next steps

Next Meeting Wednesday, June 18th 3:30 in Multipurpose Room.

Co-op Report

- The Eco-Fair was a huge success. Despite the uncertainty of the weather, preliminary numbers show it was just as profitable as usual.
- The Yoga and Sewing Clubs have started.
- There was no meeting for the month of May.
- The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 18th. We will discuss the Eco-Fair and set the tentative after-school program calendar for next year.

MG Motions to approve consent agenda

HF Seconds.

In favor: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

Requests from community for agenda items and comments

Director's Report

"Wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for a kindness." Seneca

As this year draws to a close, the School is rejoicing after a spectacularly successful Eco-Fair and a good showing at the Junior Solar Decathlon, which was held at the MET in Providence—one of the Navigator Teams finished 1st. The usual beehive of activity is occurring both inside the classrooms and outside, as

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the students prepare to complete the year in good stead, and the gardens sprout food and new gardens are being dug in the northeast corner of the property. The Navigators are building the garden and enclosed the new garden, which will produce flowers for sale. Field trips to various places as well as fun days—water sport days and spirit days—will fill the last few days of June.

The teachers are treating this month a bit like Janus, the Roman God of beginnings and transitions, as they focus both of finishing the year strong and preparing for next year. It is almost irresistible to think about the cherubs before them, who have experienced so much growth in a relatively short period of time. In addition to focusing their attention on the children, the teachers are also reviewing materials that demonstrate how well the students have learned and grown. The new Teacher Evaluation System requires that teachers test the students at the beginning of the year, set goals for their growth for the year, and then measure that growth. The results are a part of their final effectiveness rating, so I am reviewing their materials and trying to determine each teacher's status. As Dina recently made clear in an e-mail to me, my primary purpose here was to evaluate the teachers, and I have taken that duty quite seriously, having visited each classroom more than fifty times this year and providing feedback more than half a dozen times to many teachers. The purpose is to ensure that students are receiving the best teaching available.

This past week, RIDE released its School Accountability report, which consists of six categories: Commended, Leading, Typical, Warning, Focus, Priority. Clearly, the top designation is "Commended" and the worst designation is "Priority." Compass fell to Warning this year, and I spoke with Michael Ferry at RIDE to determine the precipitous drop for the school. Essentially, Compass fell to "Warning" because of the lack of growth on the NECAP's taken in October for a subgroup of students. As disappointing as the designation is, and it is disappointing, it is also specious: the data really is focused on a subgroup of students who make up less than 8% of the School's population, and the students who have "caused" this designation make up less than 3% of the School's population. In essence, one test, on one day, by 4 children has created this status for the School. That truth does not obviate the necessity to address this issue; rather, the School will have to create a plan to address the status, and that will have to be submitted to RIDE next autumn.

Last, I am working closely with the Faculty on their evaluations and am enjoying this work greatly. Each opportunity to work with the Faculty is an opportunity for growth and for kindness, and I try to take both each time I work with the School's women and men.

Sincerely,

Michael

Budget – KH reviewed the budget.

RR motions to approve the 2014-15 proposed budget.

CW seconds

In favor: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

Approved

Requests from community for agenda items and comments

Elise Lucia asked about having a separate budget for co-op and about looking for families that may have a cleaning company.

Council Elections –

The new Teacher Representative will be Polly Cuddy.

The new Parent Representative will be Susannah Strong.

Thank you to outgoing members Michelle Clifford and Cyrus Beasley. Their service has been very valuable and appreciated.

Transportation -

RR motions to Approve 3 year bus contract with Ocean State Transportation provided that they are indeed the lease costly option.

CW seconds.

In favor: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

Council Progress Review and Schedule Annual Council Retreat

The Annual Council Retreat is scheduled for August 6, 2014 at 4:00pm

MC motions to ratify 2014-2015 Teacher Contracts providing that the numbers are verified by the treasure and a new step chart is issued to reflect that we no longer award bachelor +30

RR seconds.

In favor: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

Discussion of employment letters is moved to after executive session.

Requests from community for agenda items and comments

MC motions to enter executive session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) (discussions of the job performance/character of a person or persons) : Business Manager

RR seconds

In favor:9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

All persons affected have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting.

Enter Executive session at 7:42 pm

Return to Open Session at 8:15 pm

Approved

RR motions to seal minutes/votes taken during executive session if disclosure of such minutes/votes in open session would jeopardize any strategy, negotiation or investigation undertaken pursuant to discussions conducted under §42-46-5(a).

DM seconds.

In favor: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

Approval of Employment Letters

MC motions to approve Employment Letters for TA's for 2014-15 school year for the following TAs: Renee, Karen, Mark, Elissa, Holly, Shannon and Emily.

MG seconds.

In favor: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

DM motions to approve the employment letter for Julie Winsen's, our Student Services Coordinator.

RR seconds.

In favor: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

RR motions to begin non-renewal proceedings for the Business Manager Position.

CW seconds.

In favor: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

CW motions to authorize the Treasurer, President and the Vice president to negotiate employment details for the business manager in consultation with Matt Plain.

RR seconds.

In favor: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

DM motions to deny the business manager's request to have her infant present with her on campus during her work hours.

CW seconds.

In favor: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

MC motions to form a search committee for a business manager and to authorize those committee heads (EA and HV) to populate the committee and carry out the search.

MG seconds

In favor: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

Announcements

8:40 PM Adjourn